

H. R. 432.

[Report No. 4.]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

JANUARY 6, 1851.

Read twice, and postponed until Thursday, the 16th instant.

Mr. ROBINSON, from the Select Committee, by unanimous consent, reported the following bill:

A BILL

To ensure the prompt execution of the act approved September twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and fifty, "granting bounty land to certain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States."

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled, That to provide more efficiently for the prompt*
4 *execution of the "act granting bounty land to certain offi-*
5 *cers and soldiers who have been engaged in the military*
6 *service of the United States," passed September twenty-*
7 *eighth, eighteen huudred and fifty, the Secretary of the In-*
8 *terior be, and he is hereby, authorized to appoint as many*
9 *additional clerks in the Pension Office as he shall deem*
10 *necessary for that purpose: Provided, that the whole*

11 number of clerks in said Pension Office shall not exceed
12 sixty-five.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the salaries
2 of the said clerks to be appointed by virtue of this act,
3 shall be graduated as follows, to wit : A principal clerk at
4 a salary of sixteen hundred dollars per annum, and one
5 principal assistant at a salary of fourteen hundred dollars
6 per annum. It shall be the duty of the said principal
7 clerk, under the direction of the Commissioner of Pen-
8 sions to take charge of all business coming before the said
9 office under the act approved September twenty-eight,
10 eighteen hundred and fifty ; and that the said principal
11 clerk shall have power to sign for the Commissioner of
12 Pensions all certificates of location, issued under said act,
13 and to frank all matter appertaining to the same. Five
14 clerks at a compensation of four dollars per diem each,
15 and thirty clerks at a compensation of three dollars and
16 thirty-three and one-third cents per diem each.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That in all cases
2 where the military service provided for by the act of
3 twenty-eighth September, eighteen hundred and fifty, can-
4 not be verified by the muster rolls, it may be established
5 under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the
6 Interior may prescribe, by the testimony of two or more
7 credible persons as to the respectability of the applicant,

8 and the general belief and tradition of such service hav-
 9 ing been performed. That where, in the case of the claim
 10 of a widow of a deceased officer or soldier, no public or
 11 private record of the marriage exists, or can be readily
 12 procured in the county where the party resides, the fact of
 13 the marriage may be established by the testimony of two
 14 or more respectable persons, that the parties lived together
 15 as man and wife, and were so reputed to be, and that a cer-
 16 tificate under seal, from the clerk of any probate court, or
 17 court of record, shall be deemed sufficient to establish the
 18 fact of widowhood and of heirship: *Provided*, That the
 19 provisions of this section shall not be considered as au-
 20 thorizing any change in the requirements of the rules and
 21 regulations now in force under previous bounty land or
 22 pension laws.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Sec-
 2 retary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized to
 3 employ in the office of the Third Auditor, for the purpose
 4 of examining and making certificates from the muster rolls
 5 of the war of eighteen hundred and twelve, and of certain
 6 Indian wars, such number of clerks, not exceeding twenty,
 7 as may be necessary to the prompt despatch of such cer-
 8 tificates. The said clerks to receive the following rates of
 9 compensation for their services: one principal clerk at a
 10 salary of sixteen hundred dollars per annum; four clerks

11 at four dollars per diem, each ; and the remainder at three
 12 dollars and thirty-three cents and one-third per diem, each.

1 **SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,*** That where any
 2 soldier entitled to bounty land under the provisions of this
 3 act, or the act to which this is an amendment, shall have
 4 served for a longer period than he at first engaged to serve,
 5 he shall be entitled to receive bounty land according to the
 6 ratio and to the extent of such service, without regard to
 7 the term of his engagement.

Mr. McCLERNAND's amendment :

1 **SEC. . *And be it further enacted,*** That registers
 2 and receivers of the several land offices of the United
 3 States shall be entitled to demand and receive for their ser-
 4 vices in locating military bounty land warrants from each
 5 person applying to locate the same, a fee at the rate of
 6 twenty-five cents for each forty acres so located : *Provided,*
 7 That the fee hereby allowed shall be in lieu and in discharge
 8 of any similar fee already allowed by law : *Provided fur-*
 9 *ther,* That the salary and perquisites shall in no case exceed
 10 the sum of three thousand dollars per annum each.